

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for managing ultrasound examination information, the method comprising:

determining a completion of at least one ultrasound scan performed during an ultrasound examination;

providing immediately to a billing server electronic notification of completion of the at least one ultrasound scan with a completion signal upon determining the completion of the at least one ultrasound scan; and

generating ~~separate outputs~~ at least one output based upon the electronic notification, wherein the ~~outputs comprise~~ output comprises one or more billing statements that are automatically generated ~~based upon one or more criteria including a type of scan, a doctor ordering the ultrasound scan and an insurance company to be billed for the ultrasound scan.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 2 wherein the generating is provided automatically upon the completion of the at least one scan.

5. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least one of the ultrasound scans comprises an unscheduled scan.

6. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the electronic notification is provided automatically upon completion of a scan.

7. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the electronic notification is provided based upon a user input.

8. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising associating completed ultrasound scans with patient information.

9. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising communicating the completion signal to a remote system and wherein ultrasound data from the ultrasound scan is not communicated to the remote system.

10. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least one of the ultrasound scans is scheduled and further comprising obtaining ultrasound examination information relating to the at least one scheduled ultrasound scan.

11. (original) A method in accordance with claim 10 further comprising searching a patient database for the ultrasound examination information.

12. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least one of the ultrasound scans is unscheduled and further comprising updating ultrasound examination information relating to the at least one unscheduled ultrasound scan.

13. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising immediately generating an output at a remote system upon receiving the completion signal.

14. (currently amended) A method for managing ultrasound examination information, the method comprising:

searching a database for ultrasound examination information based upon a user input, the ultrasound examination information relating to one or more ultrasound scans to be performed during an ultrasound examination; and

generating an output based upon (i) a notification of an update or change to a scheduled ultrasound scan to be performed as part of the one or more ultrasound scans and (ii) a received completion signal that at least one of the one or more ultrasound scans is complete, the output ~~corresponding to~~ being a billing statement corresponding to the ultrasound examination information and the update or change notification such that billing for the ultrasound scans and update or change are separately identified, and provided remote from an ultrasound system used to perform the ultrasound examination.

15. (original) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein the output comprises at least one billing statement.

16. (original) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein a separate output is generated in connection with each electronic notification.

17. (original) A method in accordance with claim 14 further comprising configuring the output based upon predefined criteria.

18. (original) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein the electronic notification is generated based upon a user input.

19. (original) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein the electronic notification is automatically generated upon completion of an ultrasound scan.

20. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein the completion signal is received by an administrative system and further comprising immediately generating a billing statement from the administrative system upon receiving the completion signal.

21. (currently amended) A user interface for an ultrasound system comprising:

a control portion for controlling operation of an ultrasound system; and

a menu portion for receiving a user input indicating the completion of at least one ultrasound scan, a completion signal transmitted immediately to a remote billing system based upon the user input and used by ~~[[a]]the remote~~ billing system for generating ~~an output based upon ultrasound examination information, wherein the output comprises a~~ billing statement related to the completed ultrasound scan ~~and at least one of a hospital report, a patient scheduling list, a technician scheduling list or a technician time sheet.~~

22. (original) A user interface in accordance with claim 21 wherein the menu portion is configured to allow for selection of a plurality of user screens, at least one of the screens providing fields for searching the ultrasound examination information.

23. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising providing electronic notification of at least one of an update and a change to the at least one ultrasound scan.

24. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising providing electronic notification after an expiration of a predetermined time period for the at least one ultrasound scan.

25. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein the output comprises at least one of a hospital report, a patient scheduling list, a technician scheduling list or a technician time sheet.